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## Banner News

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## Smoking ban affects all students



Photo by Amber Smith

**Joni Rantschler and Jill Sider, both administrative assistant majors, are pleased with the new no-smoking ban for the state of Iowa, which includes all DMACC campuses.**

**Amber Smith**  
Staff Writer

Smoking has been banned on campus. The Smokefree Air Act, which went into effect July 1 2008, prohibits smoking in most public places. This includes government buildings, campuses, sports arenas and parking lots. The Smokefree Air Act goes as far as to include all vehicles within the parking lot.

Tom Lee, Boone Campus provost, said, "DMACC had been talking about smoking, and the law forced DMACC's hand." He also said that if the law is not upheld, DMACC could face hav-

ing to pay heavy fines from the state. When asked his personal opinion about the ban he said, "It's good. Everyone has the right [to smoke], but with people coming in and out [of the building], breathing secondhand smoke is less to deal with."

Students' opinions about the ban have varied. Jill Siders, administrative assistant major, said, "I love it. I'm all for it. Because I used to be a smoker, I think it's smart. Too many people are rude with cigarettes. They blow it in your face (and there are) butts everywhere. In certain places, it's not necessary."

Another student with a similar view is Joni Rantschler, administrative assistant major and lifelong non-smoker. "I like it, but when they [the government] interfere with business, then I have a problem. That's interfering with people's private lives. I don't like that."

Some students do not support the Act. Mikki Winebrenner, a smoker, an accounting for professionals major, said, "I don't agree with it [The Smoke Free Act]," she said. "I think it's taking away from our freedom of choice."

Other students are neutral on the topic. Craig Abrahamsen, liberal arts and science major, said, "I'm not really partial to any side." Abrahamsen admits to smoking occasionally.

Rep. Donovan Olson (D-Boone) was asked what brought about the decision to put the Smokefree Air Act into effect. His response was, "There were big concerns in the workplace. Employees had no choice but to breathe the secondhand smoke. The ban is there to protect workers in the workplace." When questioned about his opinion he stated that he supported the legislature, though he went further to say, "There is one problem. Everyone should comply. Casinos should."

Olson doubts any possible changes to the law or the ban being lifted: "Only 20 percent of the

population smokes. There might be some variation [to the laws in the future] but I wouldn't expect too many changes here on out."

As to the concerns regarding businesses losing money, he said, "People have made claims to have lost money, but studies have found little to no affect. It's really too soon to know. It'll be a year before we have actual numbers. As businesses adapt, they may find business increased as they expand their client base. Eighty percent of the public doesn't smoke. Twenty percent do. It's a transitional issue"

Students' thoughts regarding any changes or repealing of the ban are rather similar. "Oh yeah, it'll be fought," said Siders.

Abrahamsen's opinion on the matter isn't optimistic about it either, saying, "I doubt it. I don't think they're going to any effort!"

Winebrenner's thoughts are equally dour. "As long as we have the government we do," she said, "no."

When asked if they think this is a start to the government restricting other freedoms, responses were varied and occasionally simple. "No." Siders said optimistically, "People behave themselves, don't be jerks – its not like we aren't used to rules – if we go with the flow [we'll be okay]...the government isn't out

to rule people's lives."

Laughing, DMACC student Rantschler said, "It's not a start; it's just a continuation!"

Both Winebrenner and Abrahamsen responded with a simple and decisive, "Yes."

Law requires that all designated non-smoking buildings post obvious signs signifying it as a non-smoking area, with the number for questions and to register complaints at the bottom of the signs. These can be found on the official website [iowasmokefree-air.gov](http://iowasmokefree-air.gov).

"People are going to fight it, no matter what. But it'll get tied up in the court system, they'll get tired of it [the Smokefree Act] and it'll stay," Siders said.

Rantschler said, "Not repealed. Probably some amendments will be made, but I don't think it'll be repealed."

This law was put into effect due to the public health concerns regarding secondhand smoke and the rights of non-smokers. The General Assembly of the State of Iowa finds that "environmental tobacco smoke causes and exacerbates disease in nonsmoking adults and children. Findings are sufficient to warrant measure, in order to protect the public health and the health of employees." Their hope is that the health of the general populous will improve.

## Financial issues plague single parents

**Torrey Smith**  
Staff writer

Some students at DMACC are single parents looking for higher education to support their children and make their futures brighter.



**Maggie Stone**

more, after walking out the DMACC doors. According to the Boone Campus financial Aid office, there are 30 percent or more single parents in attendance on this campus.

This is true for one DMACC student, 22-year-old Ashlee Anderson. Just like many single parents, Anderson juggles school, work, and raising her daughter.

"I go to class in the morning, and then I get to spend time with my daughter in the afternoon. After that, I have to go to work," said Anderson. "Unfortunately, the only time I gets to study is when my daughter is sleeping or watching cartoons."

Just like Anderson, student single parents not only have to have crunch time with studying but also have to worry about paying the bills.

Financial issues are a rising problem with single parents. According to the 2002 National Survey of America's Families, 38 percent are low income and 52 percent are in poverty.

Fortunately, there are programs around Boone that are willing to help any single parent in need. The Department of Human Services deals with Title 19, which is free medical insurance, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance, and the Federal Income Program also known as FIP.

The other low income service is Prom-ise Jobs. This social program helps low income families find jobs, go back to school and send federal checks to these families every month for support.

Lastly, there is Red Rock Community Center. Red Rock helps low income families who need help on month-to-month bills. It has a one-time service policy for certain bills like rent, energy, etc. Not only is there financial help around the community but also right here at DMACC.

Iowa New Choice is a program that helps single parents and displaced homemakers at DMACC. The supports that are available are financial aid assistance, individual counseling, and life planning.

Maggie Stone, head of Iowa New Choice at the Boone Campus, said, "By the end of each year there is a 60 percent to 80 percent success rate that the single parents or displaced homemakers will complete their goals and move on to a better future."

Unfortunately, there is a rise of single parent students that needs Stone's help. Stone hopes that in the future there will be more help on board to accomplish the Iowa New Choice goal, to see more and more single parents and displaced homemaker's dreams a reality.

Almost every student who comes to DMACC is looking toward a brighter future. For a single parent that future not only involves themselves but the future of their children. People like Anderson need the support of DMACC to let their dreams happen and people like Maggie Stone have the answer.

## Go Green Profile of the Week

What are you doing to make yourself more green?

**Steve Tennant**  
"Make my grocery shopping leave as small a carbon footprint as possible, recycle and volunteer."



**Anthony Meyers** "Conserve energy."



September 17, 2008

10:10-11:05 Panel Discussion  
 11:15-12:30 Soap Box at the Courter Center

# Constitution Day First Amendment Fest

Commemorative T-shirts \$2

Banned Book Display

Free pocket Constitutions

Free food in the Courter Center

## Financial aid blues

**Shane Meier**  
 Staff Writer

It is the start of a new year, and that means one thing for new and returning students: "Where's my financial aid?"

In the midst of a recession, the price of tuition, room and board is forever increasing. Financial aid from the government is essential to successfully pay for college these days.

The expected cost to attend DMACC for this school year is estimated at \$13,532, according to the Ankeny accounting office.

This amount includes trans-

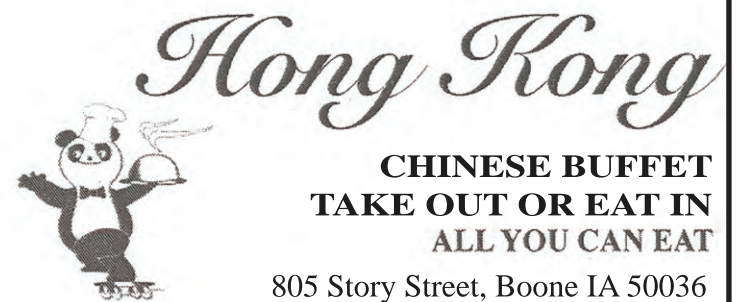
portation and personal expenses, in addition to tuition, room and board, and books. As you can guess, this is usually more than the average student can handle, so financial aid is usually the payment option most students choose.

Unfortunately, problems with financial aid are many, as students have attested. Brian Kephast, Boone Campus student, complained that he "didn't get his [financial aid] soon enough." Most of the other students interviewed had similar complaints.

The strongest reaction came from Marrona Chesnut, Boone Campus student, who suggested to "simplify the process."

Fortunately, for students there are alternatives to Federal aid. Many banks and third party groups like Astrive, have student loans that are very similar to the Federal student loan, including the "defer payment until after you graduate" option.

Still, one should be careful when borrowing from a third party, as there are many scams out there. A good example of this was Lending Tree, which many consumer review sites didn't recommend, even the lenders that were tending to charge higher interest rates and demand more conditions than the federal government.



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### WANTED

#### DRAGOON RIVER ROMPERS

The third annual Dragoon River Romp is looking for volunteers to help clean up the Des Moines River in Boone County.

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 2008

WHO: Individuals or teams of people who are interested in having a "river romping" good time! Volunteers can participate in the river cleanup OR in a land-based project.

TIME: Volunteers can work just the morning or all day.

DO I NEED A CANOE? Canoes, paddles and life preservers will be supplied.

HOW TO SIGN UP: To receive a volunteer registration packet, please contact the Boone County Landfill/Keep Boone County Beautiful at:

515.433.0591 or via email at [kbcb@boonelandfill.org](mailto:kbcb@boonelandfill.org)

OR

Download from our website at [www.co.boone.ia.us/kbcbeautiful.htm](http://www.co.boone.ia.us/kbcbeautiful.htm)

Registrations must be received by September 12, 2008

after that call first to be sure there are openings.

ANYTHING ELSE? Volunteers will receive an event T-shirt and

lunch provided by the Hunt and Fish Club. In addition, a

free dinner and super fun WACKY AWARDS ceremony will be held that evening for all volunteers and sponsors.

IS THAT ALL? Nope! Seven Oaks will also sponsor a River Romp Bash following the dinner and awards ceremony.

Come on out and become a Dragoon River Romper.

Help protect our beautiful river!



**Boone Salvation Army**

**IN-STORE SPECIALS**

**Tuesday is DMACC day come in and get  
 10% off clothes and bric-a-brac**

**Every Wednesday Senior Citizens' Day  
 10% OFF Clothing and Bric-a-Brac**

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# Getting a bang for your book

Eden Hinrichs  
Staff Writer



As students face the challenges of a new semester they also face the problems of running short of cash.

According to DMACC the average student spends over \$13,000 a year but with the cost of living constantly going up, how far can this money really go? Or better yet, what ways can the average student pinch that penny a little further?

Ankeny DMACC accounting sets book and supplies costs per year at \$1,100 per year, yet depending on the field a student is studying, those costs can start sky rocketing. Not to mention that according to Carol Petersen, Boone Campus Bookstore manager, "Books go up (approximately) \$10-\$20 a year."

A way that students are rebelling against rising costs is going to websites such as Amazon.com, Craigslist.com or even Ebay.com.

Melissa Miller, DMACC student said, "In the bookstore they said that I would spend \$500 dollars. On Amazon I only spent \$220. (The books are) almost ridiculously expensive."

Many students are emailing their teachers before class to get an idea of what text books they will be using during the semester.

"I know that as a former student, those students don't have a lot of money to be spending on over priced books," said literature professor Jerrine McCaffrey. "I don't think it's fair that book prices are so high! They need to stay as low as possible."

According to the University of North Carolina Press, text books sales from the fiscal year 2008 are down 14.5 percent and have been steadily declining by 17 percent since 2004.

It would appear that this worries many presses and the increase of book prices is due to students purchasing from outside book sources such as the internet, Barnes & Noble College Book Sellers.

Some websites allow students to adopt books or view them for free. Textbookrevolution.com offers digital text books online and the books are used as PDF

files that can be accessed at the student's convenience.

According to Textbook revolution.com or TBR, "Our approach is to bring all of the free textbooks we can find together in one place, review them, and let the best rise to the top and find their way into the hands of students in classrooms around the world."

TBR encourages students to bring these text books into

the classroom "Show it to your professor and let him or her know that there are top-quality alternatives to the overpriced bookstore editions"

However recently some of these free text book site have been coming under fire for copyright violation. Companies such as the Association of American Publishers have gone as far as to hire outside law firms such as Covington & Burlings, to hunt down these pirated text books.

TBR protects itself by offering view-only versions "Some of the books here are only available to view online, not download or print, for free."

They also search for websites that can help tutor students in subjects that the student may be

having difficulty with. As for copyright issues, TBR doesn't condone any breach of copyright laws.

"It varies by book. Each of the books has limitations on its use. Some are copyrighted. Some are licensed through Creative Commons. It is up to you to use the books in accordance with the author/copyright holder's wishes."

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**DMACC DISTRICT-WIDE**

## CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

**FALL 2008, ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS**

**Eligibility: ANY DMACC STUDENT, full or part-time, enrolled for credit Fall 2008 semester. What To Enter: Two or three short stories or poems, less than 20 pages each. No plays please!**

### DEADLINE:

**Friday,  
December 5  
2008  
5:00 PM**

### Format Requirements:

- \*Type and title each piece.
- \*Do not put name on pieces.
- \*Double space short stories.
- \*Submit work with a cover letter with your:

name, address, student ID #, title of each piece, a statement expressing your interest in competing for a DMACC scholarship\* or cash award only.

- \*Include following signed and dated certification of originality and publication release:

*I certify that the short stories and/or poems that I have entered in this contest are original to me. Also, I grant permission for DMACC to publish my work in Expressions, DMACC's, Creative Writing Magazine. Your name (fill in) Date (fill in)*

- \*Scholarship entries are also automatically considered for cash awards.

### FABULOUS PRIZES:

**Scholarships**

**1st \$1,000 2nd \$500**

**Cold, Hard, Cash**

**Best short story and best poem  
1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25, each**

**Winners Announced**

**March 2, 2009**

**Submission:** Submit all pieces with the cover letter in an envelope marked DMACC Creative Writing Contest Fall 2008. Drop off, mail or campus mail envelope to: DMACC Creative Writing Contest, care of Lauren Rice, 02-5DX Ankeny Campus, English Department, DMACC, 2006 S. Ankeny Boulevard, Ankeny, IA 20023.

**NO EMAIL OR FAXED ENTRIES**

**Sponsored By: DMACC Ankeny Campus Foundation & DMACC Ankeny Campus Student Action Council**

**For More Information:** see Lauren Rice's Website at [www.dmacc.edu](http://www.dmacc.edu)

**Questions:** Call or email Lauren Rice at 515-201-5289 and [lrrice@dmacc.edu](mailto:lrrice@dmacc.edu)

Huge Typewriter Really Works



Photo by: Eden Hinrichs

## DMACC goes green

# Physics professor helps college launch environmental program

By Craig VandeVenter  
Staff Writer

Physics and math teacher Nancy Woods has been a long time advocate for recycling and reducing waste on campus as well as managing the role of Operation Leader for the Operation Green

Woods said, "The movement of recycling the power does not rest with the administration and faculty of DMACC, it rests with the students of DMACC. The students are the teachers in this situation. If students grasp this recycling mentality their faculty counterparts will follow suit. Students must teach by example for the faculty to notice a difference in order for them to unite with the student led movement."

Efforts have already started forming to combat the effects of global warming and climate change. DMACC declared membership in both the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the President's Climate Commitment. By declaring membership DMACC has now gone green. DMACC joined these associations to commit itself to numerous proposals dedicated to reducing waste and the conservation of all its campus locations.

During a press conference on August 26, 2008, DMACC Vice-President, Business Servic-

es, Doug Williams talked about the overall implementation of the agreement changes upon the existing DMACC campus buildings. Williams, who is also the over-seer of the AASHE agreement; described the process by which all buildings and facilities are rated, ratings are broken down in 5 categories. The first, Sustainable location Changes include Erosion and sediment control, age of the building, and the plan for the interior and exterior building management after said "green changes" have occurred.

DMACC President Rob Denson said "DMACC has a responsibility to preserve the environment and to educate others about the advantages of 'going green.' The college has also teamed up with [greenribbonpledge.com](http://greenribbonpledge.com) and [Therainforests.com](http://Therainforests.com) to help educate students through online surveys.

The Survey allows students to check boxes for which methods of recycling best suits their life style; at the end of the survey students are given the "Green Pledge" courtesy of [greenribbonpledge.com](http://greenribbonpledge.com). It is an interactive process that can grant students recognition during graduation commencement in spring of 2009. Recognition "Green Pledge" can also be received by attending the district-wide in service in February of 2009, all students

that pledge will be recognized with a green ribbon and will recite the "Green Pledge" together.

Woods is also the faculty sponsor for the Phi-Theta-Kappa academic achievement organization. Her belief of recycling has been the voice for students and faculty here on the Boone campus to the DMACC administration. "It really isn't that hard at all. We must help out one another and look out for things such as light switches that are left on, paper thrown in trash cans instead of recycling bins, and reusing materials in class such as scratch paper."

On the Boone campus recycling bins for strictly white paper are located in each individual classroom, and office on campus. However this is just a start to the foundation of recycling here on campus. It is a start that has good intentions but sitting directly to each recycling bin in classrooms is a trash can that is lined with a plastic liner. The impact that the recycling bins would have had is now cancelled out by the plastic bags that are used to transport them. The decision for trash to be gathered in plastic bags is anything but smart, it shoots ours efforts in the foot more so then it does to help the recycling impact on campus.

Plans for recycling bins for not just paper but also metal, cardboard, plastics, and glass are be-

ing proposed to the DMACC administration. Currently nowhere on this campus are there recycling receptacles for any sort of glass or metal product. The area where this could have the biggest impact is in the kitchen here in the Courter Center. Everything that is not used in the kitchen is thrown away at our expense where if the proper means of recycling the materials were provided, they can produce savings for the building instead of paying third party companies to haul our wastes to landfills.

With the help of Energy Star products that are now being used in all DMACC facilities energy costs will drop for the buildings. The decrease in cost to operate and the run the building will allow for decreased tuition. Woods went on to say that "some sort of a green fund should be put into place with all of the money that is being saved by the energy Star products." It is a good long term investment tool that the school could use for fund-

ing any renovations or proposed green improvements on campuses.

"Dude, it's not that hard to just recycle" says Woods; she wants people to realize that it is not a hassle to recycle it is a way to save money as well. By actively recycling individuals are able to not just save money in their pocket book, but they are also able to save the environment. It is a win-win situation for everyone involved. "The overall conclusion" says Woods "is that all the plastic this country that has ever been produced is still here. It takes 250 years for a plastic cup to decompose in a landfill. Inevitably we will suffocate in our own trash." Woods concluded "if we don't start recycling we will be killing our own children and their future on this planet. We are their models for their own future, and unfortunately we also control their fate as well."

## Recycling

- Increases protection and expansion of U.S. manufacturing jobs and U.S. competitiveness amongst foreign nations.
- Decreases the need of land filling and the incineration of garbage.
- Limits pollution created by manufactured products.
- Conserves energy.
- Lowers greenhouse gas emissions that speed up global climate change.
- Saves natural resources including water, lumber, and raw materials.
- Helps maintain the environment for future generations to enjoy.



Photo by: Eden Hinrichs

Operation green leader, Nancy Woods, takes the initiative for recycling by leading setting example

## UNI, DMACC announce admissions partnership program

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Students admitted to Des Moines Area Community College who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Northern Iowa can now sign up for the Admissions Partnership Program to streamline the transfer process.

UNI President Ben Allen and DMACC President Rob Denson signed the Admissions Partnership Program agreement Friday, Sept. 5, which is effective this fall. The program will be coordinated

by UNI's Office of Academic Advising and DMACC.

"UNI has a long history of working with Iowa's community colleges, which play an important role in providing higher education to Iowans," Allen said. "This new connection to DMACC gives students a direct link to UNI from the day they sign up for the Admissions Partnership Program, and we believe it will make earning a bachelor's degree a reality for more and more Iowans."

Students accepted into the

Admissions Partnership Program while enrolled at DMACC benefit from:

- Guaranteed admission to UNI, provided all requirements are met.
- Timely progress toward graduation. With the exception of some UNI programs, participation enables students who stay on track to begin at DMACC and graduate from UNI in a total of eight semesters.
- Option to lock-in bachelor's degree requirements with the same status as a student who

enrolls directly at UNI as an entering freshman.

- Academic advising at both DMACC and UNI from the point of acceptance in to the APP.
- Early orientation and scheduling for the first semester at UNI.
- Guaranteed placement in UNI housing, provided the student complies with established residence policies and application procedures and deadlines.
- Access to UNI campus and student resources.
- Receipt of updated UNI

materials and information about campus events and opportunities.

• Updated DMACC transcripts automatically sent to UNI at the end of each semester. "This agreement will benefit DMACC students," said DMACC President Rob Denson. "This partnership between DMACC and UNI helps both educational institutions, but is especially beneficial for students. This Admissions Partnership Program further enhances Iowa's dedication and commitment to educational excellence."

Students who want to be a part of the DMACC -UNI Admissions Partnership Program must enroll at DMACC as a degree-seeking student in a program appropriate for the transfer and then apply to the program.

### DMACC purchases Borgen Square

Boone --DMACC Boone Campus is expanding its student housing opportunities by purchasing the current Borgen Square Apartments and making plans to build a fourth apartment building.

The agreement was signed this week with H Properties for the sale price of \$3,598,243, after the DMACC board approved the purchase in July. The complex, which serves as living space for many of DMACC's full-time students, includes three buildings with a total of 132, soon to be 176 beds by January after construction of the fourth building is completed.

"With the purchase and expansion of the Borgen Square apartments, DMACC's Boone Campus will offer more students a true college experience as they live, study and socialize on the college grounds," said Tom Lee, Provost of the DMACC Boone Campus.

"Over the past year, DMACC has become more active in the management of the property, and purchasing the apartments made good business sense," said Doug Williams, Vice President of Business Services for DMACC.

For more information or to download a housing application, go to: [dmacc.edu/student\\_services/housing.asp](http://dmacc.edu/student_services/housing.asp)

### Library, Computer Lab open Sundays

The Boone Campus library will be open on the following:

Sundays from 2 PM – 8 PM:  
 September 7, 14, 21 and 28  
 October 5, 12, 19 and 26  
 November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 (Sunday after Thanksgiving)  
 December 7

Please enter the building through the northwest door.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Tuition has gone beyond the students' reach. Federal Financial Aid and can no longer cover even the first two of a four-year tuition. Many financial aid companies keep springing up but hardly to aid students. Instead, they take advantage of their vulnerability. Older financial aid companies have now behaved like "credit cards" companies, stressing out students and their co-signers.

Many students end up dropping out of school. Letting America Know, a nonprofit organization (lettingamericaknow@aol.com) was set up recently to expose the stressful practices of these companies and to protect the students.

Sallie Mae Corporation used to be student friendly, but it got sold to another group about four years ago. This new management has turned out very unfriendly to students and harass them like credit card companies do. A few of its dubious practices include charging students \$150 up front to process forbearance on their loans and quickly destroys the credit of the student and their co-signers if they refuse to pay. Sallie Mae is no longer a good place for loans or consolidations.

The next company is Iowa Student Loan Corporation. This company is a short-term loan (7 years) company, but it has very important information in tiny writing (fine print) at the back of its application note, where most students wouldn't bother to look. This is deceitful; this information should be boldly written on the front of this form.

By being a short term loan company, it has very limited deferment and forbearances, unlike federal loan companies. Direct loans has unlimited deferments and forbearances as long as you are in school or go back to school at least part time.

With Iowa Student Loans, you can "kiss" graduate school or retraining in later in life "goodbye" because you will be in repayment. Once in repayment, there are no more deferments or forbearances. Iowa Student Loans are not a good place for loan consolidations. It inflates loans beyond your interest rates. You could accumulate a whole lot more thousands of dollars in added interest. Iowa Student Loan realizes that few students check their loans and even fewer students keep copies of their loan notes.

Always ask for copies of your loan notes before you start your payments. Any company that cannot show the note for your loan has to cancel that loan.

You need your college education now more than ever!

Good luck!

Chii Ughanze-Onyeagocha, DMACC Boone Campus student

## EDITORIAL

Hello fellow students! I am that?

I am the new Executive Editor for the *Banner News* this semester. Although I have only spent two years on this campus, I see our campus, along with our entire world, changing. This is definitely a semester that is overshadowed by uncertainty. Environmental issues are becoming more important politically and in our way of life.

This is also a pivotal year politically, where things are going to change or not change depending on our voting. This is the first time in eight years where the country will face a new president and new policies. It is the American citizen's Constitutional right to vote. So, come Election Day, where will you be? Can people really complain about politics if they don't vote? You be the judge!

This is a year of choices, your choices. I am not saying don't listen to your heart when it comes to your choices about the future, but see all the facts before jumping into an extreme position. Our choices could end up changing the world! How exciting

is that?

As we approach yet another year of studies, we are confronted with not only a changing campus but a brave new world. Our campus is taking steps to make the world a better place by going green along with the rest of the world. Where will the world be without our environment? We see these strange containers with the recycling logos on them. What will you do with that can in your hand? Throw it down on the ground? Get your nickel back or send it back in to the system to become another can? Imagine the possibilities with all the materials we already possess.

It will be truly a changing world with a new president about to take the White House, our financial world being torn asunder by the growing debt problem, a growing concern about our earth's future and finally the ever so growing debt that we students occur.

It comes down to us, the future leaders, to make the choices for a revolutionary new world.



Eden Hinrichs  
Staff Writer

I have been officially staring at the screen for three hours, and I have gotten next to nowhere. I wanted everyone to know about a loss on this campus.

We lost a student named Marissa Hagen this summer, due to a drunk driving accident. For hours I have read over articles about her and her passing but nothing about who she was as a person. I will be the first to admit that I wasn't her closest friend, but I knew she was a great person.

I originally wanted to call her family and all of her friends to talk about a tribute article about her life. But I hit a moral wall; they all were constantly pestered by press and lookie loos. Why would they want to be harassed by just another reporter? I didn't see any other reporters telling her story in the way it deserved to be told.

Aside from seeing Marissa at school, she would come in to my work with her best friend and stop in just to say "hello." I remember her very clearly, even as I write this article, but I still have to remember she's not with us anymore.

I happened upon her former work place Family Video and saw a laminated article from a local newspaper set next to a donation jar for her daughter. It was la-

## I miss you, Marissa

beled, "Angels for Autumn." As I read the article intently, my eyes flickered to her picture and a familiar lump ventured up my chest. That's when I noticed the article had changed to a statement about drunk driving.

I read the article again, even closer now and shuttered at the audacity of the writer.

People loved Marissa and Marissa loved people. Her story is beautiful, full of her helping people and even from a news perspective; it is a good story of how one person (even one who has had such a short time here) can change so many lives. Instead, I found the article full of "the tragedies of drunk driving" and a doctor's opinion of people who drive drunk.

Not once did the writer mention how funeral director couldn't fit all the people who attended the funeral in the church. Or about how many lives she touched by just smiling and talking to people.

The reporter could have said how she never said a single bad thing about another person. I never saw her look down on people because they were different. I always saw her look at the best in people and go far for people she didn't even know. Not once did I ever see her ask for anything in return.

I still see her fondly in my head. I saw her on the day she passed away, and I play it over and over in my head thinking of something better than "I'll see you later!" I thought back to all those times I could have told her what a wonderful person I thought

she was or how she had a smile that could light up a room. I think about wasted moments that could have been better spent than on small talk.

On the day of her funeral, I couldn't even bring myself to her coffin to say one last good bye because I couldn't believe that someone who did everything right, who put others before herself, who made a difference to so many people, was gone.

I think a good chunk of myself got angry because I thought that the world should be weeping for her as so many others did. A part of me got mad at the sun for shining, got angry the grass continued to grow or even the flowers for continuing to love the sun, but then it dawned on me. Maybe it wasn't some sick joke on God's part but a way to tell all the people she made it home okay. Or maybe it was nature rejoicing that her spirit was flying free.

A lot of us take a lot of things for granted. We take for granted the people we see every day and how much they mean to us. We take for granted the sun on our faces or the smell of flowers on a beautiful spring day, but most importantly, we take each other for granted. Why do we waste so many moments in hasty anger or by hiding in a room away from talking to people when there is so much we could be doing?

I wasn't the closest person to Marissa, but what I do know is that even after death, a message lives on: live every moment like it's your last and take every moment you can to help another person, even if it so small as a smile.

## JOIN THE BANNER STAFF!

Fall 2008

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Sign up for JOU 125 (3 elective credits)

Get paid to write! Those eligible for workstudy can write for the Banner.

Contact Jan LaVille, adviser at bannernews@dmacc.edu

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**bannernews@dmacc.edu.**

# Horoscopes

By Shane Meier

Aries-You will be compelled to undertake a long and arduous task.

Taurus-The time has come for you to move on from your dead end job and seek out new opportunities

Gemini-beware for there are those around you who are close to you who are trying to subvert you from your goals of world domination.

Cancer-you have just broke up with a long time lover and are very depressed but do not fear you're better off.

Leo-in a past life you were a bloodthirsty warlord who destroyed many kingdoms.

Virgo-you are compelled to do someone harm for wronging you, go for it.

Libra-you should be careful the next couple of weeks, scientologists are trying to steal your soul.

Scorpio-you are doing well in your life but people around you will feel neglected so put down the game boy.

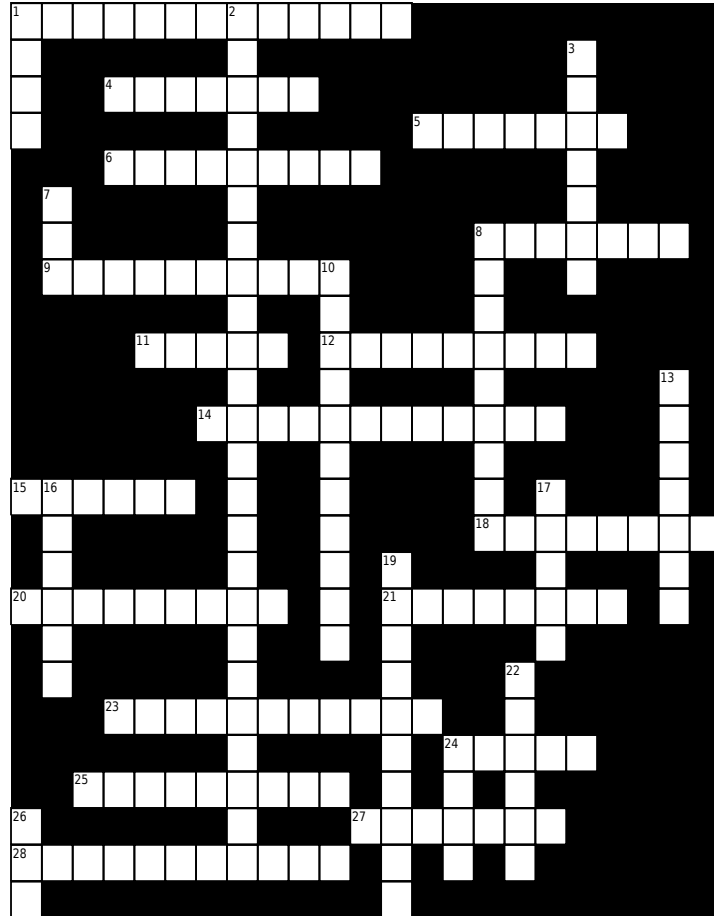
Sagittarius-Robots from the future are trying to kill you to stop you from intervening in their plans for world domination.

Capricorn- You are on the brink of a major breakthrough that could save all of mankind, if it weren't for all those damned zombies.

Aquarius- Remember to guard your fridge over the next week because Loki the god of mischief is going to take all of your cheese.

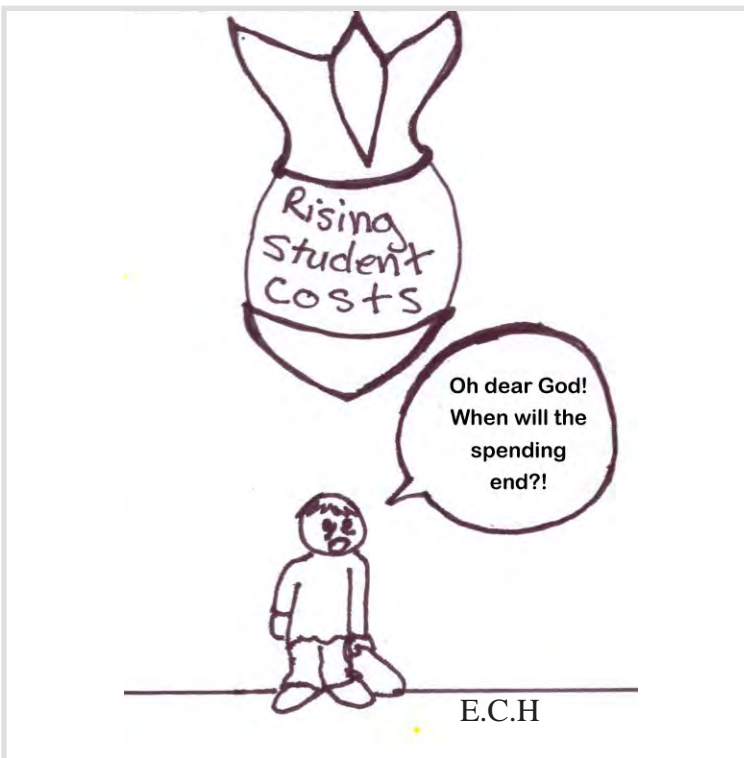
Pieces-you should learn to lighten up and learn to take a joke.

# Back to School



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|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Honor society</li> <li>4 Room with lots of books</li> <li>5 Price of college</li> <li>6 Colloege Teacher</li> <li>8 Health program at DMACC</li> <li>9 Campus eatery</li> <li>11 Name of school</li> <li>12 You play sports in it</li> <li>14 Money from the government to go to college</li> <li>15 Handheld computer</li> <li>18 Person your forced to live with</li> <li>20 Bane of all teacher's</li> <li>21 Ames center</li> <li>23 you go their for writing advise(2 words)</li> <li>24 Where are you?</li> <li>25 But books and supplies their</li> <li>27 Place were plays are shown</li> <li>28 Room with computers</li> </ul> | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Game table in commons</li> <li>2 Room were you can get help with school work(3 words)</li> <li>3 Head of campus's title</li> <li>7 Student representatives</li> <li>8 What are you holding?</li> <li>10 Program where you work with machines</li> <li>13 Mane of Commons area</li> <li>16 Location of main campus</li> <li>17 You read them</li> <li>19 Award money</li> <li>22 symbolis object in courter center</li> <li>24 School Mascot</li> <li>26 Room with TV in it</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

# Toonsies



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• **“He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster. And if you gaze for long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into you.”**

• Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, German philosopher (1844 - 1900)

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# Go Green

Y R E O S N S R W T G Y E O G M  
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 E D W O A A H E E G T E S A T R  
 E Y A V S L N Y N H G R R G E E  
 V O O H O O W I D G G R A T N Y  
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 A E G T L L M E H G E E E T C L

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>global warming</li> <li>animals</li> <li>Earthday</li> <li>geothermal</li> <li>hydro</li> <li>Recycling</li> <li>sewage</li> <li>solar</li> <li>trees</li> <li>wind</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>alternativeenergy</li> <li>Compost</li> <li>energy</li> <li>green</li> <li>litter</li> <li>Rivers</li> <li>smog</li> <li>trash</li> <li>water</li> </ul> |
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*Photo by Amber Smith*

Hypnotized students perform country during the second week of classes.



*Photo by Amber Smith*

Thinking he is Britney Spears, this man sings while under hypnosis.



*Photo by Amber Smith*

Disgusted by something they think they see, students avert their eyes.



*Photo by Amber Smith*

DMACC Bears prepare to pound Ellsworth Community College in the upcoming baseball game.